

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JULY 6, 1977
SALT TWO - 1265

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 6, 1977.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, JULY 6, 1977

AT THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 3 AND 14, 1977 THE USSR DELEGATION
ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE DEFINITION
OF HEAVY BOMBERS. TODAY THE USSR DELEGATION WILL CONTINUE
DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION.

AS YOU KNOW, WITH RESPECT TO A NUMBER OF ASPECTS A
CERTAIN PROXIMITY IN THE POSITIONS OF THE SIDES HAS EMERGED
HERE. THERE IS AGREEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TEXT SHOULD
SPECIFICALLY INDICATE THE HEAVY BOMBERS BEING LIMITED WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 2, 400 OVERALL MAXIMUM LEVEL AND THAT
INCLUSION OF AIRCRAFT AMONG HEAVY BOMBERS IN THE FUTURE WILL
BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SIDES ON A CASE-

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BY-CASE BASIS.

IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT
CORRESPONDING WORDING, AT THE JUNE 14, 1977 MEETING THE USSR
DELEGATION CLARIFIED THE MEANING OF THE TERM "CHARACTERISTICS,"
AS USED IN THE SOVIET WORDING OF ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, WITH
RESPECT TO THE HEAVY BOMBERS WHICH THE SIDES MIGHT ACQUIRE

IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WHAT IS MEANT IS THE COMBAT RADIUS OF THE AIRCRAFT WITHOUT IN-FLIGHT REFUELING. WE ALSO HAVE IN MIND THAT THE COMBAT RADIUS WOULD BE DETERMINED WHEN A HEAVY BOMBER IS EQUIPPED WITH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BOMBS OR AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILES FOR ONE COMBAT MISSION.

IN ADDITION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED HERE AND IN THE INTERESTS OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL ACCEPTABILITY, THE SOVIET SIDE PREVIOUSLY TABLED A PROPOSAL THAT MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS BE ASSUMED NOT TO CONVERT TANKER, RECONNAISSANCE OR ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE AIRCRAFT INTO HEAVY BOMBERS. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER PROPOSALS OF THE SOVIET SIDE FOR ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, THIS OBLIGATION WOULD SERVE AS A RELIABLE GUARANTEE OF STRICT COMPLIANCE BY THE SIDES WITH THE EQUAL OVERALL LIMITES BEING ESTABLISHED FOR THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS LIMITED UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT.

IN ORDER TO INCREASE MUTUAL TRUST, THE USSR DELEGATION STATED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT INTEND TO CONVERT ITS TANKER, RECONNAISSANCE OR ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE AIRCRAFT INTO HEAVY BOMBERS. AS ALREADY SAID HERE, WE EXPECT THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL MAKE A SIMILAR STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE U.S.

THE U.S. SIDE IS ALSO AWARE OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S
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PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AGGREGATE NUMERICAL LEVELS, EQUAL FOR THE USSR AND THE U.S., FOR TANKER, RECONNAISSANCE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE AIRCRAFT. IN TABLING THIS PROPOSAL, WE PROCEEDED FROM THE PREMISE THAT IF LIMITATIONS ON THESE AIRCRAFT ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AT ALL, THEN THEIR TERMS MUST BE THE SAME FOR BOTH SIDES.

THE ENTIRE COMPLEX OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPOSALS IS STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974, WHICH RECORDS THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. TO THE EFFECT THAT "HEAVY BOMBERS, IF THE LATTER ARE EQUIPPED WITH AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILES WITH A RANGE NOT EXCEEDING 600 KILOMETERS" ARE TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2,400 AGGREGATE MAXIMUM LEVEL, AND EMBODIES THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY, OF WHICH, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES, THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE BASED.

AS FOR THE SOVIET MEDIUM BOMBER CALLED BACKFIRE IN THE U.S., UNDERSTANDABLY IT CANNOT BE THE SUBJECT OF LIMITATIONS UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT. THE SOVIET SIDE RESOLUTELY REJECTS ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND THE LIMITATIONS TO THESE MEDIUM BOMBERS. IT WAS NOTED IN THE U.S. DELEGATION'S STATE-

MENT AT THE MAY 31, 1977 MEETING THAT THIS QUESTION IS UNDER DISCUSSION AT A DIFFERENT LEVEL.

SOME TIME AGO THE QUESTION OF WORKING OUT JOINT FORMULATIONS FOR ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, WAS REFERRED TO THE DRAFTING GROUP. HOWEVER, AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS THERE.

THE USSR DELEGATION FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DIFFICULTIES THE U.S. SIDE ENCOUNTERS, THAT PREVENT US FROM HAVING A COMMON TEXT OF ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, EVEN IF IT CONTAINED CERTAIN DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS SHOWS THAT THIS IS THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO FINDING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. WE EXPECT TO SEE A READINESS TO TAKE THIS APPROACH
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WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE II, PAR. 3, AS WELL. EARLE

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